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17 June 1946

TO : Mr. Gordon Harrison
Department of State

FROM : Lester C. Mack

SUBJECT : Grand Mufti of Jerusalem

The following information is dated 11 June 1946 and is from a Muslim source in Beirut who is described as well placed, but not fully tested. The report comes through British sources.

A source arriving from Damascus on 10 June claims to have seen and talked with the Grand Mufti there. The latter is said to have arrived in Cairo from France by plane with a Lebanese "Christian" passport; his beard had been shaved. He is said then to have proceeded by air to Damascus, and is reported to be waiting in that city in hiding until his beard grows. This represents a new angle to current local press accounts in reference to the Mufti's movements.

King Farouk is reported to have said that he had received a letter from the Mufti, asking the former to lead Arab opposition to a Jewish invasion, and reminding him of Saladin.

L. C. Mack:HEC:am
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Lester C. Mack, Chairman
Reporting Board, 200

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